

Mr. Chairman—Councilmembers

I'M Fred Upchurch— A river guide for the past 10 years in the Bitterroot Valley.

FWP states that fishing, hunting and wildlife watching is a billion dollar industry. I don't know the amount that is stream related, but if you consider fishing, duck hunting, wildlife watching and just floating— I'm sure it's a great deal.

In this economic climate—this is not the time to stifle work!!

I have had return clients that return because this is the “LAST BEST PLACE” and I hear stories of guides handing a sandwich over his shoulder, because he could not drop his anchor—In states like COLO & WYM.

In addition, as I read this bill, the Bitterroot river will be effected. If any streams are effected—that will concentrate the users and over tax the resource !

None of my clients wants to fish in anything that looks like a ditch !!!

A river is a wild and free thing—no one should own a river no more than anyone should own an elk .

Years ago a privilege few own a wild and free people—and if you will use your imagination—they tried to turn them into DITCHES — That was not right then and it is not right for a privilege few to own a wild and free RIVER

I urge you to vote for the People the Resource the River...